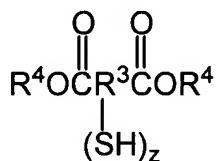


IN THE CLAIMS:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A polymer composition comprising:
a chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer; and
a heat stabilizer component consisting of a) an organic thiol compound having the formula:



wherein R³ is an alkylene having 2 carbon atoms, each R⁴, independently, is a straight chain or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and z is 1 or 2, and optionally b) epoxidized soybean oil.

24. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R⁴ has from 2 to about 10 carbon atoms.

25. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R⁴ is 2-ethylhexyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl or decyl.

26. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 25, wherein z is 1.

27. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 26, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide),

poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

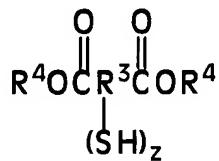
29. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein said composition includes said epoxidized soybean oil in an amount from about 1 to about 30 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.

30. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 28, wherein said composition includes said epoxidized soybean oil in an amount from about 1 to about 30 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer.

31. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 23, wherein each R⁴ is 2-ethylhexyl and z is 1.

32. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 31, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) A polymer composition, comprising:
a chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer; and
a heat stabilizer component comprising an organic thiol compound having the formula:



wherein R³ is an alkylene having 2 carbon atoms, each R⁴ independently, is a straight chain or branched alkyl having from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and z is 1 or 2, said organic thiol compound being present in an amount from about 1 to about 100

parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said polymer, and said composition being free of a Lewis acid and a metal-containing stabilizer.

34. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each R⁴ has from 2 to about 10 carbon atoms.

35. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each R⁴ is 2-ethylhexyl, methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, hexyl or decyl.

36. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 35, wherein z is 1.

37. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 36, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

39. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 33, wherein each R⁴ is 2-ethylhexyl and z is 1.

40. (Previously Presented) The polymer composition according to claim 39, wherein said polymer is poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl bromide), poly(vinylidene bromide), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride), chlorinated polyethylene, chlorinated natural or synthetic rubber, polychloroprene, rubber hydrochloride, chlorinated polystyrene, or copolymers thereof, or combinations thereof.

41. (New) The polymer according to claim 23, wherein the organic thiol compound is present in an amount from about 25 to about 100 parts per 100 parts by weight of the chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer.

42. (New) The polymer according to claim 33, wherein the organic thiol compound is present in an amount from about 25 to about 100 parts per 100 parts by weight of the chlorine-containing or bromine-containing polymer.